

1 8. (amended) A method of adjusting the two-way communication range of an RFID system to permit a
2 person to individually handle and interrogate each one of a plurality of tagged objects, each tagged
3 object having an RFID tag transceiver, comprising the steps of:

4 mounting adjacent the person an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna;

5 mounting on each tagged object an RFID tag transceiver, wherein

6 each tag transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
7 which control a reliable two-way communications range between that tag transceiver and the
8 interrogator transceiver, and

9 the interrogator transceiver is characterized by a set of one or more performance
10 parameters which control the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
11 transceiver and any of the tag transceivers; and

12 adjusting at least one of the performance parameters so that the reliable two-way
13 communications range between the interrogator transceiver and the tag transceiver of each of the tagged
14 objects only slightly exceeds the closest distance, during times when the person handles that
15 tagged object, between the antenna of the interrogator and that tagged object.

1 10. (amended) An RFID interrogator apparatus having an adjustable two-way communication range
2 so as to permit a person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged
3 objects, wherein each tagged object has a respective RFID tag transceiver attached thereto, comprising:

4 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
5 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
6 of the RFID tag transceivers;

7 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for
8 mounting on a person; and

9 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
10 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
11 transceiver and the tag transceivers only slightly exceeds the closest distance, during times when said
12 person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged
13 object.

1 15. (amended) An RFID tag having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a
2 person operating an RFID interrogator transceiver to individually interrogate the tag without
3 interrogating other RFID tags which are more distant from the interrogator transceiver, comprising:

4 an RFID tag transceiver adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein the tag transceiver is
5 characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters which control a reliable two-way

6 communications range between the tag transceiver and any RFID interrogator transceiver; and
7 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
8 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
9 and any interrogator transceiver only slightly exceeds the closest distance, during times when said
10 person handles a tagged object to which the tag transceiver is attached, between said interrogator
11 transceiver and the tag transceiver.

1 19. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a
2 person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:
3 a plurality of tagged objects, wherein each tagged object includes a respective RFID tag
4 transceiver attached thereto;
5 an RFID interrogator transceiver characterized by a set of one or more performance parameters
6 which control a reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator transceiver and any
7 of the RFID tag transceivers;
8 an antenna which is connected to the interrogator transceiver and which is adapted for
9 mounting on a person; and
10 a control logic circuit, connected to the interrogator transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
11 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the interrogator
12 transceiver and the tag transceivers only slightly exceeds the closest distance, during times when said
13 person handles a tagged object, between the antenna and the tag transceiver attached to that tagged
14 object.

1 24. (amended) An RFID system having an adjustable two-way communication range so as to permit a
2 person to individually interrogate the closest one of a plurality of nearby tagged objects, comprising:
3 an RFID interrogator transceiver having an antenna adapted for mounting on a person; and
4 a plurality of RFID tags, each tag being adapted for attachment to a tagged object, wherein each
5 tag includes
6 an RFID tag transceiver which is characterized by a set of one or more performance
7 parameters which control a reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver and the
8 RFID interrogator transceiver, and
9 a control logic circuit, connected to the tag transceiver, for adjusting at least one of the
10 performance parameters so that the reliable two-way communications range between the tag transceiver
11 and the interrogator transceiver only slightly exceeds the closest distance, during times when said
12 person handles a tagged object to which said RFID tag is attached, between said interrogator
transceiver and the tag transceiver of said RFID tag.